(b) if so, the details of their plea; and

(c) Government's response and reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) The United States has not lately requested India to sign the CTBT in India-USA bilateral discussions.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Victims of racial attacks

47. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians who have become victims of racial attacks in Australia during the last two months, their names and home town addresses; and

(b) the steps Government has taken so far to provide moral and political support to all those who are at present studying/working and victimized in Australia keeping in view that thousands of people are staying in Australia in Educational Centres?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Available details regarding attacks on Indian nationals are given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to USQ No. 25 Pt (c) and (f)]. Annexure-I. A few cases of attack had racial aspect as mentioned in the list. For privacy reasons, the Australian authorities do not reveal other details.

(b) Details are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 217 Annexure No. 4]

Sri Lankan victory over LTTE

48. SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the steps that are being taken by Government after the victory of the Sri Lankan Government over the LTTE, to achieve a political solution to the Tamil ethnic problem in Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): The Government is of the view that the conclusion of the military operations in Sri Lanka provides an opportunity to make a new beginning and pursue a lasting political settlement in Sri Lanka. The way forward lies in a peacefully negotiated political settlement within the framework of a united Sri Lanka, acceptable to all the communities in Sri Lanka including the Tamils. The National Security Advisor Shri M.K. Narayanan and Foreign Secretary Shri Shivshankar Menon visited Colombo on May 20-21, 2009 and held talks with the Sri Lankan Government. The necessity of reaching a political settlement was emphasized. On June 24, 2009, a high-level Sri Lankan delegation led by Hon'ble Basil Rajapaksa, Senior Adviser to the Sri Lankan President, visited India to continue bilateral discussions. The Government continues to stay engaged with the Government of Sri Lanka in this regard.